(b) and (c) In the Joint Statement made during the visit of President Musharraf on April 18, 2005, both countries reaffirmed the commitments made in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004. Pakistan had, in the Joint Statement of January 6, 2004 issued in Islamabad, *inter alia*, stated, that it would not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. Both countries also pledged not to let terrorism impede the peace process.

Postponement of PM's America visit

†3770. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNALAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postponement of the U.S. visit of Prime Minister in July, 2005 is under consideration; and

(b) if so, the reasons for postponement of the said tour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During her visit to India on March 16, 2005, the U.S. Secretary of State Dr.Condoleezza Rice conveyed an invitation from President Bush to the Prime Minister to visit Washigton D.C. This was reiterated by President Bush during the visit of Exteral Affairs Minister to Washington D.C. on April 13-14, 2005. The question of postponement does not arise as no decision has been taken as yet on the proposed visit of Prime Minister to Washington D.C.

Convention on nuclear safety

3771. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNALAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to ratify the convention on nuclear safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons prompted Government to ratify the convention on nuclear safety;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to sign on a peace treaty with Pakistan regarding use of nuclear weapons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India has ratified the 1994 Convention on Nuclear Safety. The Instrument of Ratification was submitted on March 31, 2005 to the Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency, who is the Depository of the Convention. India shares the objective of the Convention of maintaining a high level of nuclear safety worldwide through the enhancement of national measures and international cooperation, including in safety-related technical cooperation. This incentive Convention has been ratified by all countries producing nuclear power.

(d) and (e) In the Memoradum of Understanding signed in 1999 by the Foregin Secretaries of India and Pakistan, the two sides *inter alia* undertook "to notify each other immediately in the event of any accidental, unauthorized or unexplained incident that could create the risk of a fallout with adverse consequences for both sides, or an outbreak of a nuclear war between the two countries, as well as to adopt measures aimed at diminising the possibility of such actions, or such incidents being misinterpreted by the other." During the visit of External Affairs Minister Shri Natwar Singh to Pakistan in February 2005, the two sides agreed to initiate discussions on an agreement on the same.

Ties with Pak and Nepal

3772. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNALAFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated a drive to strengthen the ties with the neighbouring countries especially Pakistan and Nepal;

(b) if so, the measures taken so far towards this objective; and

(c) the details of achievements made my Government in this direction"

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) **Pakistan**

Singificant development have taken place in India-Pakistan relations since April 2003. Relations have been resotred at the level of High Commissioners; transport and communication links have resumed; one round of Composite Dialogue has been completed; a series of technical level and Composite Dialogue related meetings have been held on schedule. Another round has been initiated with the Foreign Secretary level talks in December 2004.